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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

## INFORMATION REPORT

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1. Lieutenant Colonel Edmundo Carvajal, Commander of the Ecuadoran Air Force, permitted the local press to publish on 9 December 1948 his remarks concerning the lack of funds and materiel in the Air Force. The remarks were made because Falconi Alarcon, the Ecuadoran Comptroller General, had refused to make sufficient funds available to operate the Air Force until the new budget was allocated. Certain members of the Army General Staff and the Armed Forces denounced Carvajal for prejudicing the nation and compromising defense secrets. Colonel Pinto and Lieutenant Colonel Cesar Alfaro, together with other officers, called on the Minister of Defense on 11 December and demanded that Carvajal be arrested and tried before a military tribunal for misconduct in office. After a great deal of discussion, Manuel Diaz Granados, the Minister of Defense, was convinced that the Army would remain adamant, so he gave verbal orders to have Carvajal confined at the Colegio Militar for five days pending further investigation of the case. Carvajal finally presented himself for confinement on 13 December, after he had been warned that he would be seized by force if he did not surrender voluntarily, and was being held incommunicado at the Colegio Militar. (Comment. Army opposition to Carvajal is quite bitter and is a contributing factor to the difficulties arising from his remarks.)

2. On 13 December Diaz ordered all military aircraft grounded and imposed strict censorship on Air Force communications. Lieutenant Colonel Bolivar Pico was placed in temporary command of the Air Force. A group of Air Force pilots (officers) attempted to contact Carvajal, and when they were denied admission, they proceeded to his home and informed his wife that they would fly on the morning of 14 December and that they would not obey any officer assigned to replace him. All serviceable planes were airborne on 14 and/or 15 December in direct defiance of the orders of the Minister of Defense and as a gesture in protest against the arrest of Carvajal.

3. A group of Air Force officers also protested Carvajal's arrest directly to President Galo Plaza on 13 December 1948, and left with the impression that although such an indiscretion should not be undertaken, Carvajal would not be relieved of his command.

4. Carvajal's arrest has provided the opposition in Guayaquil with excellent propaganda against the present Government. Carlos Cueva Moreno and Jose V.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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Trajillo are also using it as propaganda in an attempt to secure the support of military personnel against the Government.

5. On 13 December 1943, the Minister of National Defense admitted confidentially that the Government had investigated rumors that a revolutionary movement existed in Guayaquil and found proof to confirm it. On the basis of this information, Diaz ordered a tank detachment from the San Antonio Cantonment to proceed to Guayaquil and be prepared to deal with any trouble. In selecting the personnel for the detachment, Diaz consulted his aide, Captain Rene Avila, and other officers, who suggested Captain Montano to command the detachment. Montano is believed to be one of the opposition members in the tank corps, and Avila is also believed to be one of the conspirators, which indicates that the Minister of National Defense is in a difficult position, not knowing whom he can trust and unaware that he is accepting advice from officers who are not loyal to the Government.
6. Lt. Colonel Cesar Alfaro, alleged leader of the military opposition, and Major Jorge Cortaire, his intermediary with the other conspirators, have been making a tour of all Army garrisons, ostensibly to review promotions. They spent two days in Guayaquil and two in Cuenca, conferring with Guevara Moreno on both occasions. The Cuenca meeting aroused the Government's suspicions, and special investigators were sent there in an attempt to discover whether the revolt would start there. Reports received through December were negative. Alfaro departed for Loja on 15 December, but Cortaire went to Guayaquil in civilian clothes, ostensibly on private business. ~~Comment~~. Should it be fully confirmed that Alfaro and Cortaire are actually engaged in revolutionary plotting, their visits to all the Army garrisons would provide an excellent opportunity to organize all units into a concerted effort.)

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